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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05
AID-05 ACDA-07 MCE-00 IGA-02 /132 W
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R 151239Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5609
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 5465

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN
SUBJ: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 205678

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH ATO TESFAYE MEKASHA, HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPT, ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SEPT 8, AND DELIVERED REFTEL OBSERVATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, APARTHEID, NAMIBIA, DISARMAMENT, GUAM, UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, DECADE AGAINST RACISM, TORTURE, RESTRUCTURING UN, RESTRAINSTS ON PROGRAM BUDGETS, CONFERENCES, AND SALARIES. ATO TESFAYE'S COMMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. MIDDLE EAST - ETHIOPIA WAS MEMBER OF SECURITY COUNCIL WHEN RESOLUTION 242 WAS ADOPTED. ETHIOPIA SUPPORTS RESOLUTION AS IT AFFECTS RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF ALL MIDDLE-EAST NATIONS. ETHIOPIA ALSO SUPPORTS RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST AS SOVEREIGN STATE, BUT BELIEVES PLO REPRESENTATION AT ANY NEGOTIATION WOULD BE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION. MIDDLE-EAST PROBLEM SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. TESFAYE ALSO IMPLIED THAT ETHIOPIA WAS AMONG SEVERAL AFRICAN
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COUNTRIES WHO WERE LOOKING FOR MEANS OF RESTORING SOME DEGREE OF THEIR FORMER RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL. PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION WOULD HAVE TO COME IN SMALL STEPS, HOWEVER.

3. CYPRUS - ETHIOPIA SUPPORTS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVERIGNTY OF CYPRUS AND DOES NOT BELIEVE IT

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WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO PERMIT MINORITY GROUPS OF SOV-
EREIGN STATES TO ADDRESS UNGA, ALTHOUGH THEIR CAUSE
HAS RIGHT TO BE AIRED WITHIN OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF UN
APPARATUS. IMPLICATION WAS THAT EPMG WOULD SUPPORT
RULING SOMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S.

4. APARTHEID - ETHIOPIA IS AWARE OF USG PRESSURES
ON SOUTH AFRICA AND UNDERSTANDS US OPPOSITION TO IN-
VOKING CHAPTER 7; HOWEVER, ETHIOPIA CANNOT AFFORD
ADOPTING POSITION DISSIMILAR TO THAT OF OTHER AFRICAN
STATES.

5. NAMIBIA - ETHIOPIA AGREES WITH US, BUT FEELS SOLU-
TION MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO SWAPO AND OTHER AFRICAN
COUNTRIES. ETHIOPIA WILLING TO EXERT MODERATING INFLUE-
ENCES AT UNGA, BUT IF OTHER AFRICANS ARE MORE MILITANT,
ETHIOPIA WOULD GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY.

6. DISARMAMENT - ATO TESFAYE NOTED USG'S ORIGINAL
RESERVATION ABOUT WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, ETHIO-
PIA WOULD NOT EXPECT ANYTHING TANGIBLE TO EMERGE FROM
EITHER WORLD CONFERENCE OR SPECIAL SESSION. EVEN CCD
LEAVES THRID WORLD COUNTRIES AT GROSS DISADVANTAGE,
SINCE THEY HAVE NEITHER STAFF NOR TECHNOLOGICAL EXPER-
TISE TO PARTICIPATE IN FULL MEASURE ON SUCH HIGHLY
TECHNICAL ISSUES AS CHEMICAL WARFARE AND VERIFICATION.
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ETHIOPIA WILL SUPPORT A CONSENSUS CW RESULTION.
ETHIOPIA DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT A "NON-USE OF FORCE
TREATY" IS NECESSARY, BUT, LIKE MOTHERHOOD, WOULD HAVE
DIFFICULTY OPPOSING NUF RES, IF IT COMES UP AGAIN, EVEN
THOUGH EXERCISE IS WASTE OF TIME.

7. GUAM - REMOVAL OF FOREIGN BASES IS PRIORITY DESIRE
OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND ETHIOPIA UNABLE TO VOTE
AGAINST MOVEMENT, DESPITE ITS UNDERSTANDING OF US
POSITION.

8. UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - ETHIOPIA
WILLING TO KEEP OPEN MIND FOR PRESENT, BUT HAS NOT
FAVORED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW POSITION BECAUSE IT BE-
LIVES THAT COMMISSIONER COULD DO NOTHING THAT EXIST-
ING MECHANISMS, SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, NOT
ALREADY EMPOWERED TO DO. ETHIOPIA WILL CONSULT WITH
USUN ON THIS MATTER.

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9. DECADE AGAINST RACISM - WHILE ETHIOPIA INITIALLY ABSTANED ON ISSUE OF ZIONISM AS RACISM, AND NO ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE LINKING THE TWO HAS ARISEN, ETHIOPIAN POSITION IN NEW YORK WILL DEPEND ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING STATE OF US-ETHIOPIAN AND USSR-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS PREVAILING WHEN ISSUE COMES UP.

10. TORTURE - ETHIOPIAN POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSISTENT. UNDER BOTH EMPEROR AND DIRG, EXTREME SANCTIONS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON ANYONE PRACTICING TORTURE. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, ETHIOPIA NOT IN FAVOR OF CONVOKING STILL MORE COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, ETC. THIS IS WASTE OF RESOURCES. EXISTING MECHANISMS CAN HANDLE THIS, BUT, IF OFFENDING STATE DOES NOT AGREE TO FIRST HAND INVESTIGATION OF TORTURE ALLEGATIONS, ISN'T WHOLE MATTER FUTILE EXERCISE?

11. RESTRUCTURING UN ORGANIZATION - US SHOULD APPRECIATE AND GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO SENSITIVITIES OF THIRD WORLD, WHO ARE COMMITTED TO RESTRUCTURING WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM. AS FOR UN, ETHIOPIA WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT AND WEIGHT SUGGESTIONS ON THEIR MERITS. SHE WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT RENEWAL OF
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COMMITTEE'S MANDATE.

12. RESTRAINT ON 1978-79 PROGRAM BUDGET - ETHIOPIA'S

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POSITION HAS BEEN THAT UN EXPENSES SHOULD BE TEMPERED BY STRICTURESOF ECONOMY. ETHIOPIA CANNOT AFFORD YEARLY ALLOTMENT INCREASES, AND ETHIOPIA THEREFORE SUPPORTS US POSITION.

13. CONFERENCES AND SALARIES - ETHIOPIA SUPPORTS US. THERE ARE TOO MANY UNNECESSARY CONFERENCES WITHOUT ANY BENEFITS SUCH AS NAMIBIA, APARTHEID, ETC. ETHIOPIA ALSO FEELS THAT UN SALARIES ARE GROSSLY INFLATED. WHY SHOULD ELITE OF THIRD WORLD BUREAUCRATS (WHO ARE MINORITY IN THEIR COUNTRIES) RECEIVE SUCH HIGH SALARIES COMPARED WITH PER CAPITA INCOME IN THEIR HOMES? SALARIES SHOULD BE REVIEWED NO MORE OFTEN THAN ONCE EVERY TWO OR THREE YEARS FOR ADJUSTMENTS.

14. PUERTO RICO - TESFAYE RAISED QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT US WILL DO WITH PUERTO RICAN PROBLEM TO PREVENT ITS BECOMING ANNUAL ITEM ON UN COMMITTEE'S AGENDA? WOULD US CONSIDER HOLDING ANOTHER REFERENDUM WITH OFFICIAL UN OBSERVERS? WILL IMPROVED US-CUBAN RELATIONS DEFUSE ISSUE? POLCOUNS SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT HOW US CUBAN DIALOGUE WOULD DEVELOP. AS FOR REFERENDUM, INITIATIVE WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES, BUT US WOULD NOT STAND IN WAY.

15. SUMMING UP, TESFAYE SAID THAT, WHILE THERE APPEARED TO BE CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON MANY ISSUES, THERE WOULD ALSO BE DIFFERENCES ON OTHERS, GIVEN TWO COUNTRIES' DIFFERENT STATUS IN WORLD. HE AND HIS DELEGATION LOOKED FORWARD TO FREQUENT CONSULTATIONS WITH
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USDEL. COMPOSISTION OF ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION REPORTED SEPTEL.

16. GIVEN EXTENSIVE RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH MOFA ON RHODESIA, EMBASSY SAW NO NEED TO RAISE SUBJECT AGAIN IN PRESENT CONTEXT. DISCRETION ALSO DICTATED THAT WE NOT RAISE CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER ISSUE AT TIME WHEN ETHIOPIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IS THREATENED BY INVASION FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. DISCUSSION ON UNGA ECONOMIC ISSUES WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL.
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Message Attributes

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